APRIL

at the

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

APRIL MEETING

DATE: Wednesday evening, April 19th

TIME: 7:30 p.m. and again at approximately 8:40 p.m.

PLACE: May Treat Morrison Auditorium

SPEAKER: Dr. Arthur C. Twomey

SUBJECT: "AFRICA'S VANISHING WILDERNESS"

Dr. Twomey, Director of the Division of Education at Carnegie Institute in Pittsburgh, is a veteran of numerous expeditions to faraway places but he has a particular interest in Africa, evidenced by the fact that he produced two previous films on the Dark Continent prior to the one to be presented to the Academy membership on this occasion.

This camera safari was sponsored by the Carnegie Institute, the Mellon Foundation, and members of the Mellon family. Penetrating the wilderness on foot and by Land Rover, the expedition set out to depict in color film the great crisis in wilderness Africa. The game here is an irreplaceable natural resource of great economic value to many of the new nations. But is this wonderful wilderness headed in the direction of oblivion? Land is cleared, forest destroyed, and habitation replaces habitat, all causing Africa's magnificent wild creatures to face questionable fates.

A veritable zoo parade comes to life in Dr. Twomey's presentation. We urge you to join us in the enjoyment.

MORRISON PLANETARIUM

"U. F. O.'s — FACT OR FANTASY?" continues in the Theatre of the Stars through April 30. How do *you* feel about flying saucers? Hoax? Hallucination? Hysteria? Or is there perhaps some basis in fact for the some 11,000 sightings that have been reported since 1947?

Performances daily at 2:00 p.m. with evening shows, Wednesday through Sunday, at 8:30. Extra matinees on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays at 3:30. The Planetarium is closed on Monday and Tuesday nights. Admission: Adults, $1.00; Children and Service Men, 50c.

MORRISON AUDITORIUM

"EXPEDITION!", an Academy-produced documentary film photographed by staff scientists in Africa, the Gulf of California, and the Galapagos Islands, is shown exclusively at the Academy on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays at 12:45, 2:15, and 3:45 p.m. Admission: Adults, $1.00; Children and Service Men, 50c.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS

From the Academy Collections: "ONAGA-TORI", fabulous, long-tailed roosters from Japan — re-exhibited by popular request. Main Foyer, Hall of Science. Continues through June.

"CAMOUFLAGE IN NATURE", Dr. Edward S. Ross' superlative color photographs of some of the world's most ingenious disguises—now you see them, now you don't. Continues in Lovell White Hall of Man and Nature.

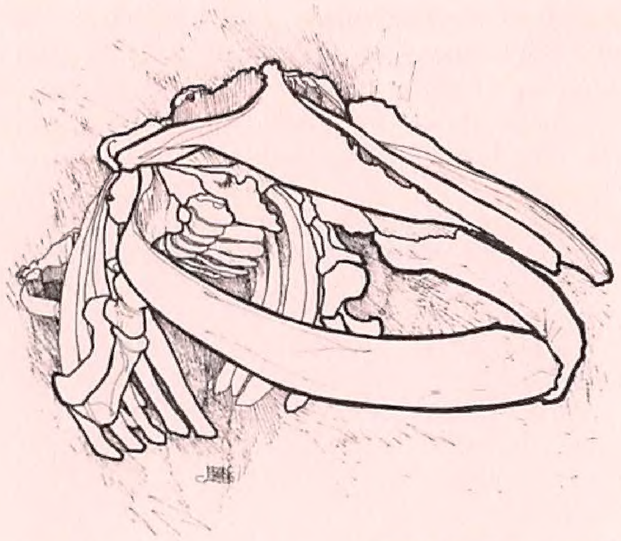
NEWS and NOTES . . . . . .

THE SHARK RESEARCH PANEL of the American Institute of Biological Sciences met at the Academy February 16-17. Some 100 experts convened to present papers and pursue discussion on such subjects as shark attack, shark "shimmy dances", blood composition, and deterrents against shark attack on downed military pilots and sky divers.

Established in 1958, the Panel is concerned with basic studies dealing with the taxonomy, behavior and the functional anatomy of sharks in the belief that such studies are essential to an understanding of the shark hazard problem, and that shark research throughout the world should be encouraged and coordinated.

This international program is supported by the Office of Naval Research.

THE POOR, BELEAGUERED WHALE skeleton which is housed in a shed at the rear of North American Hall near the Aquarium ramp is being given succor after years of assault by vandals, rib stealers, writing lovers, and children who consider the 75′ maze of bones to be a splendid sort of jungle gym. It was thought a year ago that placing a high wire fence around the sides would stop further siege. Not at all! Since then, ribs and vertebrae have been recovered from several places about San Francisco.



Sketch by Brian Carter

Barbed wire has been added to the top of the fence and the shed structure has been painted. Now, renovators are in the process of replacing ribs, flippers and vertebrae. Other missing parts will be constructed out of fibreglass and subsequently installed. Then, the skeleton will be cleaned of its countless "John Loves Marcias", initials, dates, and other graffiti which now cover the surface. The last touch will be a coat of appropriate, weather-proof paint.

The original specimen of blue whale *(Balaenoptera musculus)* was captured in 1908 off the west coast of Vancouver Island, British Columbia. The Academy acquired it in 1915.

THE SAN FRANCISCO AQUARIUM SOCIETY, in conjunction with the American Killifish Association, will present the 1967 Annual Fish Show in the Academy's North American Hall May 27 through 30. The public is cordially invited to inspect the exotic collection of live fishes in specially designed aquaria during this period from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Admission is free.

THE DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY has a notable acquisition in the form of a collection of algae incorporated in 34 bound volumes entitled *Phycotheca Boreali-americana,* a work begun in 1895 by Frank Collins, Isaac Holden, and William Setchell, and published in Malden, Massachusetts. This important algological work is a gift of the late Mr. W. B. Chapman, a nephew of Mrs. Grace A. Hall who originally subscribed to the series. Mrs. Hall, who died in 1912, was the author of another important work in the same area of botany, "Marine Algae of North America."

There were 44 volumes in the original limited edition (100 copies) of Mr. Chapman's bequest. The Academy, in order to have a complete set, needs Volumes 35 through 44. Any suggestions or contributions would be most welcome.

NEW SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

PROCEEDINGS

"AUTOTOMY IN THE MOLLUSCA". Charles R. Stasek. No. 61. February 28, 1967 ..... $1.00

"NEW SOUTHEAST PACIFIC ECHINOIDS". Edwin C. Allison, J. Wyatt Durham, and Leigh W. Mintz. No. 62. February 28, 1967 ..... 75c

MEET THE STAFF

MAURICE C. GILES, Academy Photographer, is a native of East Brownfield, Maine, and the product of Weston, Massachusetts schools and Boston University where he was enrolled in the College of Business Administration.. After three years of accounting (which he decided was not for him), he was employed by the Boston Blue Print Company making Photostats. It was here that the wonders inherent in a camera captured his fancy, a fascination that has persisted and been profitable for him to this day. After four years in Boston, he and his wife Esther migrated west to San Francisco.

Shortly after arrival in the Bay Area, Maury took a position as photographic technician with the Shell Oil Company. He stayed with this eminent firm for the following 31 years until his retirement on December 31, 1959.

Three weeks later he came to the Academy on a part-time basis and since then has been busily photographing everything from a dead insect to a live curator. His principle purposes however are in the production of Academy scientific publications such as the PROCEEDINGS and the OCCASIONAL PAPERS, and assisting Dr. G Dallas Hanna in the development of the color process being perfected in the Printing Shop.

Off-duty, he single-handedly maintains the family home in Albany where he adds rooms, replaces the roof, does electrical work, any plumbing necessary, and keeps a garden under control.

The Giles are proud of their three children and five grandchildren. They have traveled much of the U.S. by car and train and have taken particular joy in some of the Railroad Historical Society trips. They like a good game of bridge and an evening of folk dancing.

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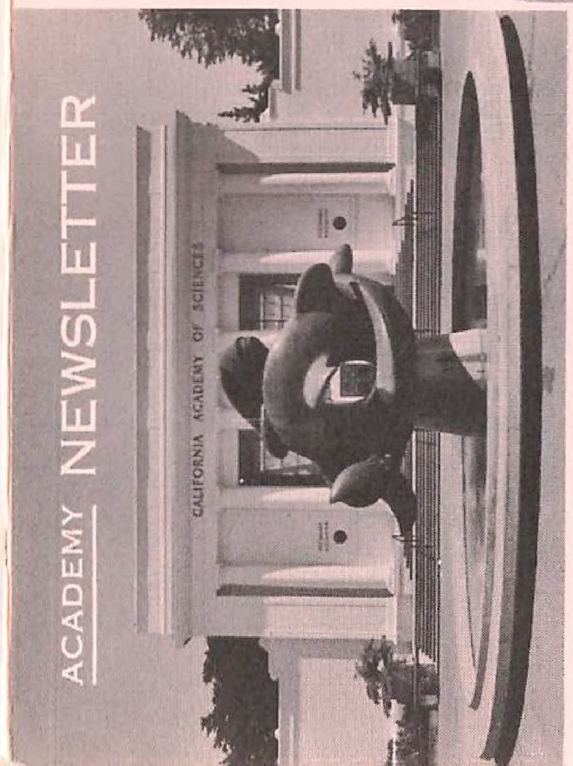

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